

REPORT
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

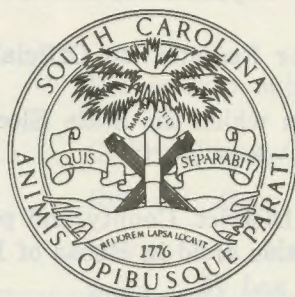
For the Period Ending June 30, 1976



Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board

REPORT
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

For the Period Ending June 30, 1976



JAMES B. ELLISOR, Executive Director
Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Letter of Transmittal	iii
II. Minutes of the Meetings of the State Board of Canvassers	iv
III. History of the Agency	7
IV. Organization	7
V. Names of Commission and Staff	11
VI. Resolution of the State Election Commission	12
VII. Summary of Expenditures	13
VIII. Workshop for Registration Officials	14
IX. Law Suits in which the State Election Commission was a Party	15
X. Returns by District, County and precinct of Special Election Held in House of Representatives Districts 67 and 76	16
XI. Voter Registration Breakdown by County and Race, November 12, 1975	19
March 1, 1976	20
May 28, 1976	21
XII. Publications of the State Election Commission	22

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Columbia, S. C., August, 1976

To His Excellency, James B. Edwards, Governor, and Chairman of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board:

In accordance with law, we are privileged to submit to you the Fourth Annual Report of the State Election Commission.

This report is submitted as the annual report of the Commission for the fiscal year 1975-76.

Respectfully submitted,

G. P. Callison, Chairman

Ruben L. Gray

Raymond A. Harris

Sylvia McCollough

Margaret S. Townsend

Commissioners

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

PRESENT: G. P. Callison, Chairman; Martha C. Chapman, Vice-Chairman; Ruben L. Gray; Margaret S. Townsend; and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director.

The State Board of Canvassers met on December 11, 1975, in the offices of the State Election Commission at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Callison called the meeting to order.

Mr. Ellisor advised that he had received the Statement and Return of Votes from the Richland County Board of Canvassers for the election to fill a vacancy in House District No. 76 held on December 2, 1975. He advised that the results had been checked and appeared to be in order.

The members of the State Board of Canvassers then canvassed the results and, finding them in order, certified the results as complete and correct. The total votes certified were as follows:

Betty M. Sloan	904
Joyce Hearn	2,490
Neil Morris	142
Write-in	3

Mr. Callison stated that the results of this canvass reflected that Joyce Hearn had been elected to the office of House of Representatives for House District No. 76. He further stated that these results would become final at noon, December 16, 1975, if no protest was filed by that time and a certification to this effect was made by the members of the Board to the Secretary of State.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

PRESENT: G. P. Callison, Chairman; Martha C. Chapman, Vice Chairman; Ruben L. Gray; Raymond A. Harris; Margaret S. Townsend and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director.

The State Board of Canvassers met on December 22, 1975 in the offices of the State Election Commission at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Callison called the meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes of the last meeting.

Mrs. Chapman moved that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved.

Mrs. Townsend seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Callison asked Mr. Ellisor to proceed with the business to be brought before the Board.

Mr. Ellisor advised that he had received the Statements and Return of Votes from the Clarendon and Sumter County Boards of Canvassers for the election to fill a vacancy in House District No. 67 held on December 16, 1975. He advised that the results had been checked and appeared to be in order.

The members of State Board of Canvassers then canvassed the results and, finding them in order, certified the results as complete and correct. The total votes certified were as follows:

Charles L. Griffin	1,193
J. Q. Ross	276
Write-In	14

Mr. Callison stated that the results of this canvass reflected that Charles L. Griffin had been elected to the office of House of Representatives for House District No. 67. He further

stated that these results would become final at noon, December 27, 1975, if no protest was filed by that time and a certification to this effect was made by the members of the Board to the Secretary of State.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting recessed subject to call of the Chair. Unless there was a protest filed in the above election within the next five days, no further meeting of the State Board of Canvassers would be held at this time.

HISTORY OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

The State Election Commission became a separate state agency on January 1, 1969. It had formerly functioned as a division of the office of Secretary of State. It was the feeling of the General Assembly that voter registration and the administration of elections were matters that should be removed from possible influence of partisan, elected officials and placed under the custody of a non-elected, bipartisan board or commission. By the law which created the Election Commission, it was required that the Commission be composed of at least one member of the majority political party represented in the General Assembly and at least one member of the largest minority political party represented in the General Assembly.

The State Election Commission operates under authority granted by 1968 Act No. 955, which is codified as Sections 23-30, et. seq., of the 1962 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

I. *Administration*

The functions of the Election Commission are administered by a five-member commission, which meets monthly in Columbia, and by an executive director who is the chief administrative officer of the agency. Policy, procedures and rules governing the various functions of the Commission are set by the election commissioners and carried out by the executive director. The executive director employs and maintains a competent working staff to assist him in carrying out his duties. During statewide general election years, it is necessary to employ additional personnel in order to carry out the increased responsibilities of the Election Commission at that time.

The Election Commission also considers and recommends changes in the Registration and Election laws to the Committee to Study the Election Laws of South Carolina in the General Assembly.

II. *Central Voter Registration System*

The Election Commission is the coordinating center of South Carolina's computerized system of voter registration. All forty-six (46) counties report new registrations and registration changes to the central office, where a computer file is built and from which are printed new lists of registered voters for every election that is held in the State—state, county, municipal or other. This system is responsible for removing from the rolls of voters those persons who have died, moved, been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise become ineligible as electors. In this regard, reports must be obtained from other federal, state and local agencies and compared with the computer files. Detailed records and statistics are maintained on the number of registered voters in each county and precinct of South Carolina. Also, a voter history file is maintained on every election held in South Carolina.

All forms and materials used by the central office and the county boards of registration for voter registration are printed and paid for by the Election Commission. The central system also provides as a public service the sale of precinct lists of registered voters at a reasonable cost to any registered elector.

III. *Aid to Counties*

The Election Commission is charged by law with the responsibility of disbursing to all counties a state supplemental appropriation to aid in keeping the board of registration office open during normal courthouse hours. The amount received by the counties is based upon their respective populations.

IV. *Elections*

A. *Office of Elections*

The State Election Commission is the chief election office for the conduct of general and special elections.

This office prints and distributes for statewide gen-

eral election and countywide special elections all ballots, forms and other materials necessary to conduct such elections for Presidential Electors, State Officers, United States Senators, Members of Congress and Constitutional Amendments.

B. State Board of Canvassers

After the conclusion of state and county general elections, the five commissioners of the Election Commission act as the State Board of Canvassers. The Board certifies the results of elections and hears appeals and protests arising in such elections.

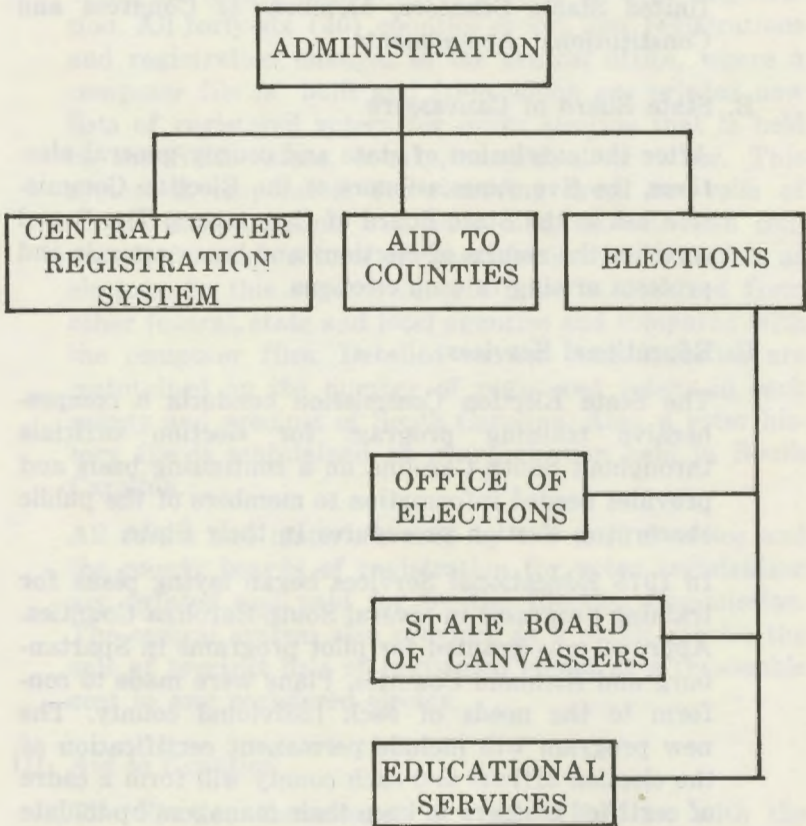
C. Educational Services

The State Election Commission conducts a comprehensive training program for election officials throughout South Carolina on a continuing basis and provides needed information to members of the public concerning election procedures in their State.

In 1975 Educational Services began laying plans for training programs in several South Carolina Counties. Approval was granted for pilot programs in Spartanburg and Richland Counties. Plans were made to conform to the needs of each individual county. The new program will include permanent certification of the election official and each county will form a cadre of certified trainers to keep their managers up-to-date on new election procedures.

It is the hope of the State Election Commission that programs of this kind will spread to other counties with good results. Educational Services will continue to provide training for any county or municipality that requests their services.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION



SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS*Appointed By The Governor*

G. P. CALLISON, Chairman (1978)
Greenwood, S. C.

MARTHA C. CHAPMAN, (Resigned 1976)
Spartanburg, S. C.

RUBEN L. GRAY, (1976)
Sumter, S. C.

RAYMOND A. HARRIS, (1976)
Darlington, S. C.

SYLVIA McCOLLOUGH, (1978)
Spartanburg, S. C.

MARGARET S. TOWNSEND, (1978)
Charleston, S. C.

COMMISSION STAFF

JAMES B. ELLISOR
Executive Director

FAYE L. CARTER
Data Control Clerk

TED G. CROWE
Administrative Assistant

ALICE E. MORRISON
Data Control Clerk

JAMES F. HENDRIX
State Training Coordinator
Educational Services

CARLA D. LEVY
Secretary, Receptionist

ANN WOLFE
Administrative Assistant

CATHERINE G. JETER
Secretary

ANGIE W. O'DONNELL
Public Information Specialist

SHIRLEY M. RESTOCK
Clerk Stenographer

C. STANLEY HARRIS
Clerk

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

RESOLUTION OF

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Martha C. Chapman of Spartanburg, South Carolina, has resigned as a member of the State Election Commission after seven years of unselfish and dedicated service to the Commission and, in turn, the State Board of Canvassers,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Chapman has served on the Commission and as ex-officio member of the State Board of Canvassers since the establishment of the Commission on January 1, 1969, she being one of the five original appointees to the Commission,

WHEREAS, she served with dedication, distinction and in a fair and impartial manner, always in search of the facts and truth in any matter,

WHEREAS, her willingness to serve, her faith in our election system with untiring efforts on her part to improve same; and her fairness and good judgment have greatly aided the Commission and the State Board of Canvassers in the performance of their activities, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
IN REGULAR MEETING ASSEMBLED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1976:

1. That the Commission deeply regrets that Martha C. Chapman found it no longer possible to continue to serve as a member of the State Election Commission because of her other duties and activities.
2. That the State Election Commission, Board of State Canvassers, and the people of South Carolina will feel the loss of her outstanding and faithful service.
3. That, having served on the Commission since its establishment, Martha C. Chapman has done much to chart the course of the Commission and State Board of Canvassers; and has done so in such a fine and impartial manner as will be a foundation and guide for the future activities of the Commission and the State Board of Canvassers.
4. That this Resolution be placed in the permanent files of the Commission and a certified copy to be directed to Mrs. Martha C. Chapman.

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS**

BY:

G. P. CALLISON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

JAMES B. ELLISOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RUBEN L. GRAY

RAYMOND A. HARRIS

Margaret S. Townsend
MARGARET S. TOWNSEND

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

1975-1976

I. Administration	\$ 86,013
II. Central Voter Registration System	\$190,935
III. Aid To Counties	\$220,000
IV. Elections	\$ 93,711
Totals	\$590,659

WORKSHOP FOR REGISTRATION OFFICIALS

On June 30, 1976, the State Election Commission sponsored a workshop for registration officials. All board members and clerks of the respective County Boards of Voter Registration were requested to attend this meeting.

The workshop was held in an effort to help the Boards organize and gain information on registration procedures and discuss common problems.

The workshop was basically broken down into two classes and one group meeting. The first class dealt with policy and legal problems involved in voter registration. The second class covered the clerical procedures that must be followed in order to make the central voter registration system work properly. In the final session, the Boards discussed common problems and made suggestions as to how voter registration may be improved on both the State and county level.

Each Board member was given a booklet entitled "Manual of Instruction for Voter Registration." It provides working information on clerical procedures to be followed in processing voters and also pertinent provisions from the Registration and Election laws.

Later each County Board of Voter Registration was provided with a booklet entitled "Selected Legal Opinions and Correspondence." This booklet is to be used by the Board for guidance in handling registration problems.

There was a large response to the workshop. Many of the Board members and clerks expressed a desire to attend other such meetings.

J. ALLEN MARTIN—vs—JAMES B. ELLISOR, 2nd SUIT

On March 16, 1976, the South Carolina State Supreme Court ruled that the State Election Commission must make copies of the computer tapes that contain the names of registered voters available to any qualified elector in the State at a reasonable cost.

Special elections were held in House of Representatives Districts 67 (Clarendon and Sumter Counties) and 76 (Richland County). These seats were vacated by the Honorable R. J. Aycock (District 67) and the Honorable John H. La Fitte, Jr. (District 76).

The political party abbreviations used in these pages are as follows.

D—Democratic Party

R—Republican Party

I—Independent Party

SPECIAL ELECTION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 76
DECEMBER 2, 1975
RICHLAND COUNTY

PRECINCT	Betty M. Sloan (D)	Joyce Hearn (R)	Neil Morris (I)	Write-In
Ward 15	67	242	10	
Ward 16	106	407	21	
Ward 17	145	348	17	2
Ward 18	141	177	19	
Ward 23	88	104	17	
Ward 24	33	138	9	
Ward 25	105	399	13	1
Ward 26	35	123	10	
Ward 27	72	221	7	
Brandon	18	99	14	
N. Forest Acres	5	23	1	
S. Forest Acres	25	81	1	
Hampton	64	127	3	
Absentee		1		
TOTAL	904	2,490	142	3

SPECIAL ELECTION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 67
DECEMBER 16, 1975

SUMTER COUNTY

PRECINCT	Charles L. Griffin (D)	J. Q. Ross (R)	Write-In
Pct. #10	67	19	2
Pct. #24	178	60	1
Pct. #25	107	22	3
Pct. #26-A	22	8	1
Pct. #26-B	281	53	2
Pct. #27	175	69	4
County Total	830	231	13

CLARENDON COUNTY

PRECINCT	Charles L. Griffin (D)	J. Q. Ross (R)	Write-In
Alcolu	48	9	
Calvary	71	10	1
Harmony	7		
Home Branch	45	1	
Manning #4	17	9	
Manning #5	20	1	
Paxville	150	14	
Summerton #3	5	1	
County Total	363	45	1

DISTRICT 67 TOTALS

PRECINCT	Charles L. Griffin (D)	J. Q. Ross (R)	Write-In
Sumter	830	231	13
Clarendon	363	45	1
Total	1,193	276	14

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS
BREAKDOWN BY RACE
NOVEMBER 12, 1975

County	Indian	Oriental	Black	White	Total
Abbeville		3	1,508	5,938	7,449
Aiken		1	5,841	28,162	34,004
Allendale			2,770	2,180	4,950
Anderson		3	3,403	27,707	31,113
Bamberg	1		2,658	3,566	6,225
Barnwell			3,026	5,392	8,418
Beaufort		3	4,080	8,558	12,641
Berkeley		17	5,872	13,126	19,015
Calhoun			1,682	2,145	3,827
Charleston	12	59	27,903	58,783	86,757
Cherokee	1	1	1,877	11,662	13,541
Chester			2,619	7,101	9,720
Chesterfield	2	2	3,550	9,962	13,516
Clarendon			4,588	4,820	9,408
Colleton	1		3,984	6,708	10,693
Darlington		1	5,640	14,154	19,795
Dillon	5	2	2,597	5,583	8,187
Dorchester	26	1	5,225	12,033	17,285
Edgefield		2	2,288	3,472	5,762
Fairfield			3,480	3,490	6,970
Florence	3	3	9,765	22,961	32,732
Georgetown		1	6,238	7,589	13,828
Greenville	6	10	9,230	68,480	77,726
Greenwood		1	3,139	13,643	16,783
Hampton			3,193	3,760	6,953
Horry	1	5	5,093	21,110	26,209
Jasper			2,250	2,306	4,556
Kershaw	1	2	2,838	10,651	13,492
Lancaster		2	1,950	12,622	14,574
Laurens			2,654	10,434	13,088
Lee			4,041	3,998	8,039
Lexington	7	12	2,894	37,383	40,296
McCormick		1	1,224	1,642	2,867
Marion	1		4,133	5,465	9,599
Marlboro	4		2,619	5,802	8,425
Newberry	1		1,788	9,531	11,320
Oconee		2	856	11,252	12,110
Orangeburg	4	2	12,420	14,198	26,624
Pickens		4	861	17,598	18,465
Richland	21	58	26,907	55,607	82,593
Saluda			1,272	4,286	5,558
Spartanburg	2	5	7,474	46,912	54,393
Sumter	4	6	8,038	13,292	21,340
Union		1	2,628	10,457	13,086
Williamsburg			7,597	6,579	14,176
York	32	4	4,745	21,455	26,236
State Totals	135	216	230,438	673,555	904,344

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS

BREAKDOWN BY RACE

MARCH 1, 1976

County	Indian	Oriental	Black	White	Total
Abbeville		3	1,546	6,019	7,568
Aiken		1	5,878	28,356	34,235
Allendale			2,803	2,199	5,002
Anderson		3	3,488	28,494	31,985
Bamberg	1		2,693	3,571	6,265
Barnwell			3,166	5,628	8,794
Beaufort		3	4,119	8,663	12,785
Berkeley		17	5,971	13,321	19,309
Calhoun			1,763	2,172	3,935
Charleston	12	63	28,359	60,017	88,451
Cherokee	1	1	1,684	10,764	12,450
Chester			2,660	7,169	9,829
Chesterfield	2	2	3,698	10,269	13,971
Clarendon			4,694	4,882	9,576
Colleton	2		4,033	6,777	10,812
Darlington		1	5,782	14,274	20,057
Dillon	5	2	2,651	5,673	8,331
Dorchester	26	1	5,285	12,087	17,399
Edgefield		2	2,299	3,621	5,922
Fairfield			3,517	3,513	7,030
Florence	3	3	9,947	23,208	33,161
Georgetown		1	6,315	7,647	13,963
Greenville	6	10	9,286	68,662	77,964
Greenwood		3	3,174	13,688	16,865
Hampton			3,317	3,854	7,171
Horry	1	6	5,311	22,315	27,633
Jasper			2,261	2,334	4,595
Kershaw	2	2	2,950	10,820	13,774
Lancaster		2	1,978	12,781	14,761
Laurens			2,682	10,508	13,190
Lee			4,078	4,019	8,097
Lexington	9	12	2,938	38,135	41,094
McCormick		1	1,246	1,656	2,903
Marion	1		4,198	5,578	9,777
Marlboro	4		2,747	6,013	8,764
Newberry	1		1,808	9,559	11,368
Oconee		2	874	11,591	12,467
Orangeburg	4	3	12,668	14,373	27,048
Pickens		6	873	17,825	18,704
Richland	21	61	27,481	55,958	83,521
Saluda			1,277	4,302	5,579
Spartanburg	3	8	7,735	48,573	56,319
Sumter	4	6	8,222	13,422	21,654
Union		1	2,675	10,571	13,247
Williamsburg			7,649	6,595	14,244
York	33	4	4,824	21,702	26,563
State Totals	141	230	234,603	683,158	918,132

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS
FOR PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD JUNE 8, 1976
BREAKDOWN BY RACE
MAY 28, 1976

County	Indian	Oriental	Black	White	Total
Abbeville	1	3	1,666	6,480	8,150
Aiken	1	3	6,166	30,093	36,263
Allendale	1		2,953	2,309	5,263
Anderson	1	4	4,007	30,981	34,993
Bamberg	1		2,857	3,982	6,840
Barnwell		1	3,477	6,129	9,607
Beaufort		6	4,681	9,435	14,122
Berkeley		23	6,266	14,116	20,405
Calhoun			1,877	2,305	4,182
Charleston	12	66	29,021	62,138	91,237
Cherokee	1	1	2,103	13,007	15,112
Chester			2,815	7,667	10,482
Chesterfield	2	2	3,971	11,029	15,004
Clarendon			5,270	5,356	10,626
Colleton	3		4,203	7,155	11,361
Darlington	1	1	7,202	16,551	23,755
Dillon	8	2	3,097	6,473	9,580
Dorchester	26	1	5,501	12,770	18,298
Edgefield		2	2,584	3,908	6,494
Fairfield			3,911	3,850	7,761
Florence	5	3	11,297	25,432	36,737
Georgetown		1	6,671	8,198	14,870
Greenville	9	20	9,568	72,532	82,129
Greenwood		5	3,465	14,710	18,180
Hampton			3,681	4,000	7,681
Horry	1	6	6,527	24,892	31,426
Jasper	1		2,942	2,881	5,824
Kershaw	2	2	3,144	11,293	14,441
Lancaster		2	2,359	14,576	16,937
Laurens			2,914	11,267	14,181
Lee			4,407	4,392	8,799
Lexington	9	15	3,077	40,536	43,637
McCormick		1	1,458	1,803	3,262
Marion	2		4,745	6,077	10,824
Marlboro	9	1	3,215	6,899	10,124
Newberry	1		2,091	10,216	12,308
Oconee		3	1,097	13,193	14,293
Orangeburg	6	3	13,913	15,270	29,192
Pickens		7	943	19,541	20,491
Richland	25	69	28,644	58,237	86,975
Spartanburg	5	9	8,463	52,626	61,103
Saluda			1,385	4,785	6,170
Sumter	4	6	8,994	14,342	23,846
Union		1	2,835	11,103	13,939
Williamsburg			8,433	6,887	15,320
York	35	5	4,917	22,732	27,689
State Totals	172	274	254,813	734,654	989,913

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

1. Registration and Election Laws of South Carolina (published every even numbered election year in August or September).
2. Booklet entitled "Poll Manager's Handbook For Conduct of General Elections" (published each even-numbered election year in September or October).
3. Annual Report.
4. Periodic brochures, pamphlets and statistical data for the public on voter registration and election procedures and the number of registered voters in the State.
5. Statistical data on voter turnout for every election held in South Carolina is available for public inspection at the office of the State Election Commission. This data includes the number of registered voters and the number who actually voted broken down by race and sex.
6. "Selected Legal Opinions and Correspondence" was prepared to be used by the County Boards of Voter Registration. The booklet outlines certain procedures to be followed by the Boards when certain problem situations arise in registration. It will be updated periodically.
7. "Manual of Instruction for Voter Registration" was prepared for all members of the County Boards of Voter Registration. It outlines all clerical procedures to be followed for voter registration. This booklet will be updated periodically.

